

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 15, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member
Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Ernie Winters, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
John Haese, OMNNI Associates
Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt
William Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2013 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt, stated he stopped in the meeting today to thank the committee for past business and offer Mead & Hunt's services for any future design or construction projects. John Haese, OMNNI Associates, stated he also stopped in to thank the committee and offer the services of OMNNI Associates for any future needs.

Commissioner Winters stated that he was contacted by the WisDOT regarding some property they wish to sell in the Town of Oshkosh. The 2 acre parcel is located in the USH 45/CTH S intersection area. Due to budget issues the DOT is trying to get rid of properties they no longer need. After discussion it was determined the Highway Department has no need for this property either. Commissioner Winters will send a letter to the WisDOT refusing their offer.

Commissioner Winters asked the committee members if they had a chance to review the draft copy of a letter he wrote to WisDOT regarding safety issues along STH 26. This issue was discussed with Congressman Petri when Supervisors Albrecht and Warnke were in Washington. The letter suggests that when DOT performs the safety study of the STH 26 corridor that they consider installing programmable message boards at the USH 41 and USH 151 connections. The message boards might be beneficial to the traveling public should there be a traffic incident or accident. Supervisor Albrecht suggested that Mr. Winters also include some language in his letter that the current level of Federal funding should remain the same for two-lane highways.

The Committee discussed Governor Walker's recent budget recommendation that will ask the Transportation Projects Commission to review unfunded enumerated projects to potentially remove them from funding. One of the projects on the list is the Wisconsin 10/441 interchange with USH 41 and the 10/441 corridor reconstruction. The Committee has already discussed this matter and the County Board passed a resolution in support of this project remaining on the list. Supervisor Albrecht stated he is not opposed to the Commissioner sending another letter but this item has had quite a bit of exposure already and wonders if too much may be a bad thing. John Fink stated that when the Executive's office contacted several of the State Representatives they were not aware of it. Mr. Fink stated he feels it may be beneficial to bring it to their attention. Supervisor Egan stated he thinks the letter should be sent to the local legislators instead of the Governor. Commissioner Winters stated he will document his thoughts and send a letter.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters stated that he will be doing some research and putting together a plan to address weight limit issues and overweight hauling on county roads. Once he has a plan drawn up that includes a defensible position to protect the integrity of the county highway system he will present it to the committee then the full county board for approval. Mr. Winters has been in contact with the Sheriff's Department and they are willing to work in conjunction with the Highway Department regarding the enforcement of overweight hauling once the plan is implemented.
- Commissioner Winters distributed a copy of the executive summary of the Governor's budget for the committee members to review.
- A USH 41 project update was distributed. The update states where the project is at, what work is left to do, etc.
- Commissioner Winters stated the department will be holding their annual safety training for the employees tomorrow. He invited the committee members to attend if they desired to.
- Commissioner Winters reminded the committee that May 2 is the Commissioner and Committee Member's meeting in Green Bay.
- Chairman Robl inquired about several accidents that occurred on Saturday. Winnebago County Sheriff Officer William Anthes stated that there were 25 accidents in the area of USH 41/CTH II due to the overpasses freezing. He stated two sheriff's deputies were injured in the crashes.
- Supervisor Warnke stated that he was questioned by constituents about the amount of money Commissioner Winters requested to complete the 2013 winter season. Mr. Winters explained that the amount of money budgeted each year is based on previous year's averages, that due to the unknown severity of winter it cannot be an exact amount. He stated the amount he requested has to cover any additional winter maintenance events this spring as well as November and December 2013. If any of the \$350,000 remains at the end of December it will be transferred back to the General Fund.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 6, 2013.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary